



OSPREY NEWSLETTER

Rhode Island DEM
Division of Fish and Wildlife
PO Box 218
West Kingston, RI 02892
Phone: (401) 789-0281
Fax: (401) 783-7490

*Note New Email** lori.gibson@dem.ri.gov

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OSPREYS IN ABUNDANCE

This was another very successful season for the Rhode Island ospreys. The wet and cool may weather did not have a negative effect on most of the nests. The number of active nests increased from last year's 84 to 98 nests while the number of young increased from 114 to 143. While some locations were not as productive, the season overall was very successful. For the first time in over 40 years ospreys have returned to Newport and Block Island.

In addition, we now have a young osprey outfitted with a satellite radio transmitter to track its migration south (see below for more details).

Several new sites were discovered, many atop water and cellular phone towers. This proved to be problematic as health and safety concerns needed to be addressed without causing further impacts to the ospreys. Table 3. of the newsletter contains the activity of all known nests. If we have inadvertently incorrectly reported any activity, please do not hesitate to contact us at the numbers above.

THANKS TO OUR COOPERATORS

This has been a banner year for the Division and cooperators. We know many of you went above and beyond the call of duty in monitoring nests. Enough can't be said about your efforts, as the Division is not staffed to monitor the current osprey population. We are truly fortunate to have the assistance of so many dedicated volunteers. As always, we extend our thanks to the following cooperators who have given so much of their time and efforts in monitoring the growing number of RI osprey nests: Janet Bryan, Steve Reinert, Michele Cyr, Charlotte Sornborger, Mary Leito, Sophie Lewis, Bill Prescott, Tracy Silvia, Bill Dudek, Annie McMullen, Ken Weber, Henry Tarbox, Barbara Bucci, Bill McEneaney, Jim McEneaney, Niels West, Matt Rehor, Tom Kutchner, Chris Powell, Rob Bierregaard, Bar Warton, Laura Deascentis, Joe Metzger, Eugenia Marks, Erika Hasle, Suzanne Paton, Cheryl Wiitala, Kim Gaffett and Mike Wagner. If we made any errors in reporting your data, please do not hesitate to call and correct the problem. If you would like to be an active cooperator, please contact the Division for sites and volunteer forms and remember...

Gentle Reminder

Cooperators, if you have not submitted your volunteer hour sheets please do so now. The hours 'donated' are considered an in-kind donation. Federal money is given at a rate of 3 to 1 for donations. The money is used to support and expand programs within the Division.

OSPREY MORTALITIES AND INCIDENTS

We were lucky this year with only one known osprey death. This was located on Rt. 1 near the Pond St. exit. We believe that it was the male from the Hanson's Landing site due to its failure and the Pond St. success.

NEW POLES AND PLATFORMS

Once again, the Division would like to thank Narragansett Electric Co. for their help in resiting platforms in Narragansett. Thanks also to Don Urso for erecting a platform on the Weekapaug Golf Course. In addition, the Audubon Society put up a pole at their Bristol Environmental Education Center with the help of Mat Rehor and Brian McCormick.

Of great interest to the state was the addition of two new poles in Newport and Block Island. Ospreys had been absent from both sites for over 50 years. Mike Wagner erected the Block Island pole. The nest fledged one young, which was banded by Kim Gaffett with Mike's assistance. The Newport nest was erected at Bailey's beach and was active for the first time this year. Unfortunately, the pair did not fledge any young.

Anyone interested in putting up new poles may contact the Division for guidance. We will assist and give advice for best placement and specifications of these poles for those who are interested. As in the past, the appropriate permits need to be acquired for pole placement within coastal or freshwater wetlands.

RHODE ISLAND OSPREY OUTFITTED W/ SATELLITE TRANSMITTER

The first Rhode Island osprey was outfitted with a satellite radio transmitter this August. The bird, a young male from the Marsh Meadows nest in Jamestown, was banded and equipped with the transmitter by Rob Bierregaard, biology professor from University of North Carolina. The *Osprey Newsletter* has reported on the progress of Rob's research in many past newsletters but this event was significant in that past research has focused on adults. Since young ospreys remain in South America for two years, little is known about their activities during this time. Should he survive, "Conanicut", as he was dubbed, may greatly add to the body of knowledge of juvenile birds. Those interested in following Conanicut's migration may visit the website at www.bioweb.uncc.edu/bierregaard. As you may recall, various sources collaborated and funded the video camera on the Marsh Meadows nest. The osprey cam will be up and running next March and can be visited at www.conanicutraptors.com.

Lori Gibson, editor

"It is the policy of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management to offer its services and accommodations to all orderly persons, and, as required, to all properly licensed persons, without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, or handicap. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, facility, or if you desire further information, please write to the Office for Equal Opportunity, US Department of the interior, Office of the Secretary, Washington, DC 20240."

"The Osprey Newsletter is made possible, in part, by the Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration Act, Rhode Island Project ES-PR.

Table 1**Rhode Island Osprey Nesting Statistics 1978 - 2005**

Year	Total # of nests Surveyed	# of Active Nests	# of Successful Nests	Total # of Young	# of young per active nest	# of young/ successful nest
1978	13	12	7	13	1.08	1.86
1979	14	12	10	15	1.25	1.50
1980	14	12	10	20	1.67	2.00
1981	19	15	10	18	1.20	1.80
1982	16	13	9	14	1.08	1.56
1983	20	17	14	30	1.76	2.14
1984	19	16	14	26	1.63	1.86
1985	23	20	16	19	0.95	1.19
1986	28	25	19	32	1.28	1.68
1987	27	24	19	39	1.63	2.05
1988	31	23	20	41	1.78	2.05
1989	33	23	17	29	1.26	1.71
1990	45	31	21	43	1.39	2.05
1991	45	37	18	28	0.76	1.56
1992	50	42	21	47	1.12	2.24
1993	49	42	25	45	1.07	1.80
1994	49	44	26	44	1.00	1.69
1995	61	43	35	71	1.65	2.03
1996	77	49	33	70	1.43	2.12
1997	81	52	42	75	1.44	1.79
1998	81	61	49	104	1.70	2.12
1999	74	63	55	111	1.73	1.98
2000	89	58	55	103	1.78	1.87
2001	80	77	65	116	1.51	1.78
2002	89	87	63	108	1.24	1.71
2003	89	71	53	82	1.15	1.55
2004	100	84	76	114	1.36	1.5
2005	140	98	80	143	1.46	1.79

Table 2

Great Swamp Impoundment Nesting Activity for 2005 Impoundment built in 1960 - 1961, around the elm tree Osprey began nesting on the powerline ~ 1975

YEAR	ELM TREE	POLE 1	POLE 2	POLE 3	POLE 4	POLE 5	POLE 6	POLE 7	POLE 8	POLE 9	PLAT	RANGE	SUBSTATION
1977	2	~	~	2	~	2	~	~	~	NA	~	~	~
1978	2	~	~	0	0	0	0	~	~	NA	~	~	~
1979	2	~	~	1	2	2	SA	~	~	NA	~	~	~
1980	Blew down	~	~	2	2	2	2	~	~	NA	~	~	~
1981	NA	SA	SA	3	0	0	0	~	~	NA	SA	~	~
1982	NA	~	1	2	3	~	2	~	~	NA	SA	~	~
1983	NA	NA	0	3	2	0	3	SA	~	NA	1	~	~
1984	NA	~	1	3	2	1	2	SA	~	NA	A	~	~
1985	NA	NA	0	0	0	0	2	2	~	NA	0	~	~
1986	NA	NA	0	2	1	2	3	2	~	NA	2	~	~
1987	NA	2	2	2	1	2	0	SA	~	NA	~	~	~
1988	NA	2	3	3	3	3	2	SA	~	NA	3	1	~
1989	NA	0	2	0	0	2	0	SA	SA	NA	A	2	~
1990	NA	0	2	NA	0	1	NA	2	SA	NA	0	2	~
1991	NA	SA	0	0	0	0	2	NA	0	NA	0	0	~
1992	NA	A	2	NA	NA	2	0	1	0	NA	A - 0	A - 0	A - 0
1993	NA	1	NA	1	A - 0	2	NA	2		NA	A - 0	A - 0	A - 0
1994	NA	A - 0	A - 0	A - 0	NA	A - 0	1	A - 0	A - 0	NA	~	A - 0	A - 0
1995	NA	NA	2	NA	1	1	1	3	1	NA	~	2	NA
1996	NA	NA	A - 0	NA	2	A - 0	1	1	A - 0	NA	A - 0	2	NA
1997	NA	3	2	2	2	1	1	NA	NA	NA	NA	2	NA
1998	NA	3	A - 0	NA	3	1	2	A - 0	NA	NA	NA	3	NA
1999	NA	1	1	1	NA	1	1	2	NA	NA	NA	2	A - 0
2000	NA	1	2	2	1	1	0	0	2	2	NA	2	2
2001	NA	1	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	2	NA	2	2
2002	NA	1	0	1	0	~	1	~	~	0	NA	1	1
2003	NA	3	NA	2	1	U	1	NA	NA	NA	NA	3	2
2004	NA	NA	1	2	2	2	0	0	NA	NA	NA	1	2
2005	NA	2	2	A - 0	2	2	1	NA	NA	NA	NA	A - 0	2

Table 3**Osprey Nesting Activity 2005**

Nesting site	Town	Nest Activity	# of Young	Remarks
Acre/ Cove Ave Barrington	Barrington	AS	2	
Adam's Pt.	Barrington	AS	0	
Federal Road	Barrington	AS	2	
Hundred Acre Tongue	Barrington	AS	3	
Hundred Acre/ Acre Ave.	Barrington	AS	2	
Johannis Midway	Barrington	NA	0	
Johannis N	Barrington	AS	1	
Johannis S	Barrington	AS	3	
Massachuck Creek	Barrington	AS	3	
Palmer River 1/North	Barrington	NA	0	
Palmer River 2/South	Barrington	NA	0	
Palmer River Silveira	Barrington	AS	1	
Rumstick Point	Barrington	NA	0	
Wampanoag Trail	Barrington	AS	2	
Washington Rd	Barrington	NA	0	
TBA	Block Island	AS	1	New Nest
Ninigret	Charlestown	NA	0	
Ninigret Pond Fiore Sand &Gravel	Charlestown	AS	3	
Rt 2 & 112 intersection	Charlestown	A	1	
Shannock Rd	Charlestown	NA	0	
Tuck-a-hoe Turf	Charlestown	AS	2	
Shumankunuc Rd.	Charlestown	AS	3	
United Nuclear	Charlestown	NA	0	
ACI	Cranston	AS	1	
Luther Property	Coventry			Unknown
Uncle Bob's Self Storage	East Greenwich	AS	2	
Bucklin Point	East Providence	NA	0	
Bucklin Point Hill	East Providence	AS	1	
Mobil Tank Farm #1	East Providence	AS	2	
Mobil Tank Farm #2	East Providence			Unknown
Pierce Field	East Providence	AS	2	
Exeter Metcalf	Exeter	AS	2	
Killingly Pond	Glocester	NA		
Burdickville East	Hopkinton	AS	1	
Burdickville West	Hopkinton	AS	2	
Chickadee Farm	Hopkinton	A	0	
Chickadee Golf Course	Hopkinton	A	0	
Narragansett Trail Central	Hopkinton	NA	0	
Narragansett Trail North	Hopkinton	NA	0	
Narragansett Trail South	Hopkinton	AS	1	
Tomaquag	Hopkinton	AS	2	
Potter Hill Central	Hopkinton	AS	1	

Potter Hill East	Hopkinton	NA	0	
Potter Hill West	Hopkinton	AS	2	
Jamestown Fox Hill Farm	Jamestown	AS	1	
Jamestown Marsh Meadows	Jamestown	AS	2	
Jamestown South Pond	Jamestown	NA	0	
Beavertail US GOV center	Jamestown	AS	1	
Jamestown elementary school	Jamestown	AS	2	
Goose wing beach	Little Compton	A	0	2 Died
Quicksand Pond	Little Compton	NA	0	
Haeffenreffer #1	Little Compton	AS	2	
Haeffenreffer #2	Little Compton	NA	0	
Mellville	Mellville	A	0	
Mellville	Mellville	NA	0	
Canonchet Farm Museum	Narragansett	A	0	Nest Abandoned
Indian Rock Rd.	Narragansett	AS	2	
Foddering Farm	Narragansett	A	0	
Galilee Bird Sanctuary	Narragansett	AS	3	
Galilee Water tower	Narragansett	AS	2	
Sunnybrook Farm	Narragansett	NA	0	
Wastewater Treatment Facility	Narragansett	AS	1	
Narrow River	Narragansett	AS	3	
Narrow River Duck Blind	Narragansett	NA	0	
Narrow River Powerlines	Narragansett	NA	0	
Point Judith Pond Kenyon Rd	Narragansett			Unknown
Salt Pond	Narragansett	A	0	Failed
Sprague Park	Narragansett	AS	1	
Sprague Bridge	Narragansett	AS	3	
DeChristofaro	Narragansett	AS	2	
Bailey's Beach	Newport	A	0	
Allen's Harbor	North Kingstown	AS	2	
Mc Ginn Park	North Kingstown	AS	1	
N.Kingstown Dog Pound	North Kingstown	AS	1	
North Kingstown High School	North Kingstown	AS	3	
Quonset Navy Yard Facilities Bldg.	North Kingstown	NA	0	
Quonset Club House	North Kingstown	AS	1	At least one
Quonset Navy Yard Gate 51	North Kingstown	AS	1	
Rabbit Island	North Kingstown	AS	2	
Ryan Park	North Kingstown	AS	2	
Turco Marsh	North Kingstown	NA	0	
Coggeshell Cove	Prudence Island	SA		
Nags Creek	Prudence Island	A	0	
Port of Providence	Providence	NA		
Buttonwoods Rd.	Richmond	AS	0	
Rt 95 Between 3&4	Richmond	NA		
Rt 95 Switch Rd.	Richmond	AS	1	
Barneyville Rd. N	Seekonk	AS	1	
George St.	Seekonk	AS	2	
Olney St. Seekonk	Seekonk			unknown

Monarch Drive	Seekonk	A	0	
Bisquit City Rd	South Kingstown	NA	0	
Factory Pond	South Kingstown	AS	2	
Great Swamp 1	South Kingstown	AS	2	
Great Swamp 2	South Kingstown	AS	2	
Great Swamp 3	South Kingstown	A	0	
Great Swamp 4	South Kingstown	AS	2	
Great Swamp 5	South Kingstown	AS	2	
Great Swamp 6	South Kingstown	AS	1	
Great Swamp 7	South Kingstown	NA	0	
Great Swamp 8	South Kingstown	NA	0	
Great Swamp 9	South Kingstown	NA	0	
Great Swamp Range	South Kingstown	A	0	
Great Swamp Sub Station	South Kingstown	AS	2	
Hanson's Landing	South Kingstown	A	0	Failed, male hit by car
Pond St.	South Kingstown	AS	3	
Potter Pond	South Kingstown	AS	2	
Succotash (water tower)	South Kingstown	AS	2	
Point Judith Pond	South Kingstown	AS	2	
Point Judith Pond Turner Cove	South Kingstown	A	unk	
Trustom Pond 1	South Kingstown	A	0	
Trustom Pond 2	South Kingstown	AS	2	
Theatre by the Sea	South Kingstown	NA	0	
Swansea Country Club	Swansea	AS	1	
Ruecker Refuge	Tiverton	NA		
Jack's Island	Tiverton	AS	1	
Belcher's Cove North	Warren	AS	1	
Belcher's Cove South	Warren	AS	2	
CCRI	Warwick	AS	1	
Mickey Stevens	Warwick	AS	3	
Forge Rd.	Warwick	SA		New Nest
Arlington RV park	Warwick	AS	2	
Barry's Niteclub	Warwick	AS	1	
Spring Green Cove	Warwick	NA	0	
Avondale	Westerly	AS	3	
Chapman Pond	Westerly	NA	0	
Maschaug Pond	Westerly	AS	2	
Little Maschaug Pond	Westerly	NA	0	
Misquamicut	Westerly	AS	2	
Napatree Point 1	Westerly	NA	0	
Napatree Point 2	Westerly	AS	2	
Quarry Rte. 78	Westerly	NA	0	
Rt 91 Train tracks	Westerly	NA	0	
Rt 91/ 78 Transfer Station	Westerly	AS	2	
Westerly Pee Wee Field	Westerly	A	0	
White Rock Rd.	Westerly	AS	1	
Winnapaug Breach Dr.	Westerly	NA	0	
Winnapaug Atlantic Ave.	Westerly	AS	2	

Foster Cove Rd.	Westerly	A	0	
Super 8 Motel	West Greenwich	AS	1	
Hazard Rd.	West Greenwich	AS	2	
Total			143	

AS= ACTIVE & SUCCESSFUL

79

A= ACTIVE

17

SA= SUBADULT

2

NA= NOT ACTIVE

38

U= UNKNOWN

12

Rhode Island Nesting Statistics 1978-2005



